

Message Text

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43

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-13 AID-20 PC-15 DRC-01 /160 W

----- 072379

R 121438Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5609

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

CINCLANT

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT OF SPAIN 1122

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS; PINT: TD

SUBJECT: SEPTEMBER BLUES

CINCLANT FOR POLAD

REF: POS 1073

1. DURING PAST TWO WEEKS GOTT HAS FALTERED AFTER GAINING AN EARLY MOMENTUM AGAINST "GUERILLAS" WITH A NUMBER OF ARRESTS AND THE DISCOVERY OF VARIOUS CAMPS. THESE LIMITED SUCCESSES ABETTED BY CONSIDERABLE GOTT MILEAGE OUT OF THE INDEPENDENCE FESTIVITIES AND THE CASTRO VISIT PULLED THE COUNTRY THROUGH THE LONG INDEPENDENCE DAY WEEKEND DESPITE POPULAR EXPECTATION OF "TROUBLE". SINCE THEN, HOWEVER, POLICE EFFORTS APPEAR LARGELY STALLED. A NUMBER OF UNSUCCESSFUL SEARCHES OF THE HOMES OF PROMINENT PERONS HAVE INCREASED GENERAL DISENCHANTMENT WITH THE POLICE, WHILE INCIDENTS OF ARSON AND UNEXPLAINED SHOOTINGS HAVE KEPT THE POPULACE JUMPY. YESTERDAY WAS MARKED BY ACCIDENTAL SHOOTING OF POLICEMAN BY REGIMENT SOLDIER DURING A SEARCH FOR GUERILLAS, FURTHER STRAINING ARMY-
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POLICE RELATIONS.

2. IN ADDITION TO ITS "GUERRILLA" PROBLEM, GOTT IS NOW WRESTLING WITH THE UPWARD PRESSURES ON PRICES; BURGEONING INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS WOES, MOST NOTABLY A POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS STRIKE MOUNTED ESSENTIALLY FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES IN THE GOVERNMENT-OWNED ORANGE GROVE SUGAR FACTORY; CD INCREASING UNEMPLOYMENT WITH THE RECENT CLOSURE OF THE TOWN AND COUNTRY GARMENT FACTORY (60PERCENT U.S. OWNED) AND SUBSTANTIAL LAY-OFFS IN THE AUTO ASSEMBLY BUSINESS.

3. WITH IMMINENT RETURN OF HUDSON-PHILLIPS AND THE PNM GENERAL CONVENTION SET FOR SEPTEMBER 28-30, WILLIAMS WILL PRESUMABLY ROUSE HIMSELF FROM HIS PREVAILING LETHARGY. GOTT ONLY KNOWS WHETHER AND HOW HE WILL GRASP THE NETTLE, BUT ON PAST FORM WE EXPECT HIM TO REACT TO RATHER THAN ANTICIPATE PROBLEMS AND RELY ON "REPRESSION" WHEREVER NECESSARY. THUS SHORT-TERM OUTLOOK IS FOR MORE OF THE CURRENT UNEASY CALM PUNCTUATED BY INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE AND OCCASIONAL TERRORISM.
MOFFAT

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NNN

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EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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TAGS: PINS, PINT, TD
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